

MAY 25, 1960

Approved For Release 2005/01/05 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700340003-8

First Strike in War Called Vital to U. S.

NEW YORK, May 25 (AP) — A member of the board which made the Galtier report on United States defense said he believes "if we have nuclear intelligence that the Russians are planning a strike against us that we certainly should make the first strike."

Robert Sprague, chairman of

the board of Strategic Electric Co., made the statement in a taped television discussion, now being aired over the Nation's educational television status. The program was taped by the National Broadcasting Co. on May 10 six days before failure of the summit conference will bring the repercussions of the U-2 plane incident.

Moral Point Noted

Mr. Sprague said the decision to "make the first strike" would be a very difficult decision for the men involved to have to make.

It would have to be based on an assumption, he said, that it was definite there was going to be a nuclear holocaust.

Mr. Sprague said the United States now has a moral obligation to defend its territory over Russia, but he said, "we will not have again," but added that the United States also has moral restraints that Russia may not have.

"This is a moment in national policy we will not strike a picture of grave danger from the first blow," he said. "Now Soviet military might."

With the development of the nuclear weapon, no bomb to deliver them over long distance, if we strike the first strike this would wipe out a very large percentage of our military capability and if in this situation we do not have an superior power position,

Galtier Report Still Severe

"If war appears to be imminent and Russia, for example, for her own reasons isn't making the progress of peaceful means that she wants to make, and decides on military means in that event it is absolutely essential we strike first if we possibly can."

Mr. Sprague made his statements on a television program titled "Briefing Session." Participants with him discussing "United States Complacency vs. Soviet Power" were Dr. Jerome Wiesner, director of electronic research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Lester Livingston, professor of business administration, Harvard University.

Mr. Sprague was a member of the board named for H. Rowland Galtier, which made a report to President Eisenhower in 1957. Never officially made public, the report was quoted in some newspapers as painting